Grade level: K -3

Subject Area: Science

Lesson Title: Don’t Throw That Away

Teacher: Beverly Sipes

Objective:

The students will be able to:

* Identify various waste materials at school and at home
* Sort waste materials into different recycling categories of paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum (cans)
* Describe the recycling process beginning at home and ending at the recycling plant
* Devise other methods trash can be repurposed and reused

Materials: (If you wish to do collaborative groups, material amounts will need to be adjusted)

Wastebasket

Assorted waste materials including:

* Paper - newspaper, construction paper, writing paper, magazines
* Plastic - milk jugs, water bottles, detergent bottles, etc
* Glass - jars from various products
* Cans - soda, vegetables (large and small if possible)

Computer access/smartboard

Anticipatory Set:

1. In the voice of a village crier read this story: Mayor Announces the City Has Run Out of Room for Garbage. This story can be printed from the following website [https://www.teachervision.com/recycling/recycling-waste-management-%E2%80%93-educational-videos-activities#](https://www.teachervision.com/recycling/recycling-waste-management-%E2%80%93-educational-videos-activities)
2. After reading the article ask students:
   1. Do you think it is fair the community would turn the school playground into a landfill?
   2. Why do you believe the landfill was overflowing?
   3. How could the community have lessened the amount of garbage in the landfill?

Lesson:

1. Hopefully, the students mentioned the word recycle in response to the above questions. Define and explain the principles of recycling.
2. Show the students a wastebasket filled with waste materials that were collected from both school and at home.  Items should include paper, glass, cans, and plastic. Discuss with the students that many families have 2, 3, or more garbage cans of waste a week.  Have a dialogue about what will happen with the waste once the garbage man hauls it away. (It is deposited into a landfill)
3. On your smartboard or computer show a picture of a landfill so the students can see for themselves how much trash is dumped. <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3953606.htm>
4. The term recycle was mentioned in the video. Take a look at the waste in the garbage can. Ask:
   1. Are these items recyclable?
   2. Based on our collection of waste, what types of items should we be collecting?
5. Sort the materials by categories: plastic, paper, glass, and cans
6. Explain that once you have collected your recyclables, they now need to be sent to a recycling facility. Ask:
   1. What do you think happens once you have recycled your items?
7. Show video which shows the process that takes place at a recycling facility.  The video will show how the different materials are separated from one another.
   1. Video address: [https://www.teachervision.com/recycling/recycling-waste-management-%E2%80%93-educational-videos-activities#](https://www.teachervision.com/recycling/recycling-waste-management-%E2%80%93-educational-videos-activities)
8. After the movie, discuss the various steps that were taken to separate the items.
   1. Ask: Now that the items have been recycled, what do you think will happen to it? Answer: It will be made into more items of like material. Kids can offer examples.
9. Explain that we can also help the environment by reusing items again. Do an example with a tin can. Ask:
   1. What else could you do with this tin can other than throw it in the garbage? (Accept student responses)

Independent Work

1. Divided students into collaborative learning groups of 3 or four students.
2. Have the group select two items that were in the wastebasket at the beginning of the lesson.
3. Each group should think of 2 ways that object could be reused for another purpose.
4. Now that the group has thought of a way to reuse the “trash”, they are going to create a drawing that represents that repurposing. These pages will be collected and made into a class book.

Assessment:

1. Which items in your home can be recycled or reused?
2. Once you place your water bottle in the recycle bin, what happens to it?
3. Write a letter to the principal explaining why it is so important for the entire school to recycle. Give 3 details to support your argument.